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confidence in the value (of Solar Parallax) deduced from the corresponding inequality in the Lunar Theory. The agreement of the value, thus deduced, with those lately obtained by other methods proves the consistence of our adopted values of the constant of Solar Parallax, Nutation and Precession.

Solar Eclipse of March 5, 1867. Observed at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. By C. Piazzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

The Solar Eclipse of March 5th (Astronomical) had its commencement—as seen from here—quite concealed by thick clouds; the middle, partly clear; and the end, entirely so.

The end of the eclipse was observed with the Playfair Alt-Azimuth instrument at $22^{\rm h}\ 38^{\rm m}\ 38^{\rm s}\cdot 7$ Edinburgh Mean Time; Mr. Fox Talbot being the observer at the telescope, and the time being noted for him by myself.

Several small photographs of the later phases of the eclipse were taken by Mr. W. H. Davies, member of the Edinburgh Photographic Society,—at 89 George Street in this city; I have the honour to inclose one of the most interesting which he has kindly sent me.

In a letter just received from M. Otto Struve, he states that the eclipse was well observed at Poulkova; but that a party whom he had sent on the line of the annular features in the government of Nijni Novgorod, had been entirely defeated by bad weather.

Eclipse of the Sun, 1867, *March* 5, *and Occultation of a Star by the Moon*, 1867, *Jan*. 16; *observed at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.*

(*Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.*)

Eclipse of the Sun.

The time of the beginning of the eclipse was observed as follows: clouds prevented further observation.

	Mean Solar Time of beginning of Eclipse.				Instrument.	Observer.
	d	h	m	s		
March	5	20	17	35·12 (*a*)	North Equatoreal	E.
,,		20	17	28·52	46-inch detached	C.
,,		20	17	34·02	36-inch detached	L.
,,		20	17	31·29 (*b*)	Great Equatoreal	J. C.

(*a*) Clouds passing; the Sun's limit continually obscured: at the time noted the Moon's limb was first seen, and the eclipse had probably begun not many seconds.

(*b*) Uncertain to a second: probably too late by that quantity.

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The initials E., C., L., J. C., are those of Mr. Ellis, Mr. Criswick, Mr. Lynn, and Mr. Carpenter.

Occultation of a Star by the Moon.

Day of Observation.	Phenomenon.	Moon's limb.	Mean Solar Time. h m s
1867, Jan 16.	Aldebaran, disapp.	Bright.	7 25 9·9.

The observer was Mr. Carpenter; he stated that the time noted is uncertain to a second, owing to the wind making it difficult to hear the clock; the sky was also cloudy, and the star faint; but the disappearance was instantaneous.

A Catalogue of "New Stars." By G. F. Chambers, Esq.

In compiling my Catalogue of Uncalculated Comets I was very much embarrassed in consequence of the Chinese chroniclers having intermingled with their comets proper a number of objects specifically termed by them "new stars." In some cases it was tolerably clear from internal evidence that these "new stars" were veritable comets, but in others it was impossible to express a confident opinion. Some of these uncertain objects were added to the cometary list, and others were wholly passed over, without, I am constrained to admit, any definite rule being conformed to. This manifestly involved serious drawbacks, and on due reflection, conceiving that it would be convenient to astronomers to possess a comprehensive catalogue of all recorded temporary stars, I decided to detach from the comets all objects which certainly were not comets and unite them with all objects which certainly were stars. The two lists, that is to say, this one and that on p. 352 of my *Descriptive Astronomy* between them, comprise, it is supposed, every comet of which an unequivocal record has been handed down to us. I cannot, however, assert that this list is equally exhaustive in regard to the temporary stars. Let it be understood, therefore, that whilst the Comet Catalogue probably contains no stars, this, most likely, does contain some comets.

I have not included objects which are commonly, and on sufficient authority, dealt with as Variable Stars and usually included in Variable Star Lists, such will be found elsewhere.

The references cited as 'Biot' are to E. Biot's lists published in the *Connaissance des Temps* for 1846. The more notorious temporary stars I have not professed to speak of at length, as they are described in most books on Astronomy. For the sake of completeness, however, it was necessary to allude to them.

133 B.C.

In July an extraordinary star appeared near β, π, ρ *Scorpii.* —(Biot.) Perhaps identical with the comet of 134.

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